

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A vanishing cream base composition suitable for topical application of an active agent to an animal or plant comprising:
  - a. from about 20 to about 70 wt.% water, based on the total weight of cream base composition;
  - b. at least about 10 wt.%, based on the total weight of cream base, of at least one alcohol;
  - c. at least one polymeric thickening agent comprising a nitrogen containing acrylic unit;
  - d. a penetration enhancing effective amount of a skin penetration enhancing compound; and
  - e. an emulsifying agent;wherein said cream base is stable upon storage at ambient conditions, and clarifies at a temperature greater than 30°C.
  
2. (Original) A vanishing cream composition suitable for topical application of an active agent to an animal or plant comprising:
  - a. from about 20 to about 70 wt.% water, based on the total weight of cream base composition;
  - b. at least about 10 wt.%, based on the total weight of cream base, of at least one alcohol;
  - c. at least one polymeric thickening agent comprising a nitrogen containing acrylic unit;
  - d. a penetration enhancing effective amount of a skin penetration enhancing compound;
  - e. an emulsifying agent; and
  - f. an active agent;

wherein said cream base is stable upon storage at ambient conditions, and clarifies at a temperature greater than 30°C.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said emulsifying agent is polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 3 wherein said polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil is present in an amount from about 2 to about 17 wt.% based on total weight of the cream base composition.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 2 having less than about 45 wt.% water.
6. (Original) The composition of claim 2 having less than about 40 wt.% water.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 2 having less than about 35 wt.% water.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said at least one alcohol is present in at least about 35 wt.%.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said at least one alcohol is present in at least about 40 wt.%.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said at least one alcohol is present in at least about 45 wt.%.
11. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said at least one alcohol comprises ethanol.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric thickening agent comprising a nitrogen containing acrylic unit is present in an amount from about 0.2 to about 10 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the cream base composition.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric thickening agent comprising a nitrogen containing acrylic unit is present in an amount from about 3 to about 7 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the cream base composition.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said polymeric thickening agent comprising a nitrogen containing acrylic unit is present in an amount from about 4 to about 6 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the cream base composition.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 2 further comprising Germaben II-E.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said skin penetration enhancing compound is a 1,3-dioxane, 1,3-dioxolane or acetal substituted with a C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>12</sub>-hydrocaryl group.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 16 wherein said skin penetration enhancing compound is 2-n-nonyl-1,3-dioxolane.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17 wherein said 2-n-nonyl-1,3-dioxolane is present in an amount from about 5 to about 20 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the cream base composition.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 17 wherein said 2-n-nonyl-1,3-dioxolane is present in an amount from about 7 to about 15 wt.%, relative to the total weight of the cream base composition.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said thickener is an ammonium acryloyldimethylaurate-beheneth-25 methacrylate crosspolymer.

21-45. (Cancelled).